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To: (Name)	Company Name	Facsimile Number
Task Force	Council on Environmental Quality	202 456-6546

From: Kristin Coile Date: October 31, 2001Re: CommentsPages+Cover Sheet: 4 Ext./Client/Matter No.: 198-010538-90833If you do not receive all pages, please call Copy Center at (615) 244-6380, ext. 842**Transmitted For:**

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**Comments:**

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**Colonial Pipeline Company**  
**CEQ/Interagency Energy Task Force Comments**

Pursuant to 66 Fed. Reg. 43586, Colonial Pipeline Company hereby submits the following information and comments:

1. **Project Name:** Colonial Pipeline Alabama-Tennessee Expansion Project

2. **Entity Proposing Project:** Colonial Pipeline Company

3. **Project Category:** Pipeline

4. **Project Description:** To meet rapidly increasing product demands, Colonial has proposed an approximately 225-mile underground pipeline from Talladega, Alabama to Nashville, Tennessee. The pipeline will transport various types of refined petroleum products. In addition to meeting demand, the project is also being designed to reduce distance and delivery time for trucks which currently transport petroleum to the Huntsville area, and to offer new technology and safety enhancements to the delivery of petroleum products to the Huntsville and Nashville markets.

5. **Agencies that must give approval:**

Federal Agencies – Department of the Army, Army Corps of Engineers; Tennessee Valley Authority.

State Agencies – Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Alabama Department of Environmental Management; Tennessee Department of Transportation; Alabama Department of Transportation.

6. **Agencies that must be consulted:**

Federal Agencies – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Department of the Interior; U.S. Department of Transportation; Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission.

State Agencies – Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office; Alabama Historical Commission; Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency; Alabama Department of Conservation – Wildlife Section.

7. **Comments:** Colonial Pipeline Company supports wholeheartedly the mission of Executive Order 13212, which is to increase safe, clean production of energy, and to expedite the review of projects which further that goal. Present permitting procedures for construction of petroleum pipelines can prove to be extremely time

intensive due to the plethora of federal and state agencies that must review a potential project and provide consultation. As such, we feel that it is important for the CEQ Interagency Energy Task Force to look at these comments and develop recommendations on how to expedite the permitting process for energy projects so that energy demands may be met more readily and expeditiously while maintaining appropriate safety and environmental protections.

Accordingly, Colonial Pipeline Company offers the following recommendations for pipeline energy projects:

- 1) Use to the greatest extent practicable the existing nationwide permit process established by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- 2) Encourage permitting agencies to, in accordance with NEPA requirements, take full advantage of applicable categorical exclusions and the Environmental Assessment ("EA") process.
- 3) Expedite the NEPA review process within the applicable federal agencies. Also, streamline the public participation process by combining public comment periods and any public hearings that may be required by various state and federal agencies involved in review of the project.
- 4) Take advantage of the single agency processing provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act, 30 U.S.C. § 185(c)(1). Specifically, for projects which cross parcels of property completely under the jurisdiction of one federal agency, such as the Department of Defense, regardless of the nearby location of land under the jurisdiction of a second federal agency, that agency should be designated as lead agency for the project. As an example, projects which cross an Army base, but which may cross other federal land after exiting the base, should be subject to the single agency processing provisions.
- 5) Make more information publicly available on the world wide web and other readily-accessible media to keep energy producers abreast of developments relating to permitting issues.

We hope these comments will be useful to the CEQ Interagency Energy Task Force. If you require any additional information, please contact:

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On behalf of Colonial Pipeline Company, thank you for consideration of these comments.